GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:756
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY
Kumar Shri Shailendra

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a South Asian University in India with joint cooperation of the SAARC countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of land proposed to be acquired for the purpose; and

(c) the details of the disciplines and course curriculum likely to be offered and the number of students likely to be admitted in the proposed university?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)-(c) Yes, Prime Minister had proposed establishing a South Asian University at the 13th SAARC Summit in Dhaka in November 2005. At the 14th SAARC Summit, held in New Delhi in April 2007, the SAARC leaders decided to establish a South Asian University and signed an agreement to this effect. An Inter-Governmental Steering committee comprising representative of SAARC Member States has been established. It decided to set up a Project Office and appoint an interim CEO. The purpose of the Project Office is to oversee construction, draw up its Charter, Byelaws, Business Plan, Governance Structure, Course Curricula etc. The University's main campus is expected to plan for 5000 students from SAARC Member States.